



DANGER FORWARD

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February 2, 2010 | Issue 1

1ID takes command of USD-S

By Spc. Samuel Soza
367th MPAD, USD-S PAO

COB BASRA – The 34th Infantry Division, of Rosemount, Minn., transferred authority of United States Division-South to the 1st Inf. Div., from Fort Riley, Kan., during a ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Basra, Feb. 2.

Ten months prior, the 34th Inf. Div., led by Maj. Gen. Rick Nash, took control of the nine provinces that make up USD-S

First Inf. Div., known as “Big Red One” because of their distinctive patch, is led by Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks.

Many distinguished guests attended, including Gen. Raymond Odierno, United States Forces-Iraq commander, Iraqi leaders and governmental officials and local religious leaders, such as acting-Bishop of Basrah, Imad Aziz al-Banna.

Nash recounted the many accomplishments of the 34th Inf. Div. – known as the “Red Bulls” – and the Iraqi forces with whom they worked, such as the Department of Border Enforcement.

“Inland waterways, once a reliable route for smugglers, criminals and terrorists,” he said, “have been superbly controlled by Coast Border Guard patrols.”

He also remarked on the Iraqi Police role in disposing of explosive ordinance, responding to improvised explosive de-



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza
Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, 1st Inf. Div. commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Champagne, 1st Inf. Div. command sergeant major, unfurl the 1st Inf. Div. colors during a transfer of authority ceremony at COB Basra. The “Big Red One” assumed responsibility for USD-S Feb 2.

vices and “advancing the rule of law.”

Nash said he observed the Iraqi Police expanding their responsibilities by taking over checkpoints from the Iraqi Army.

“The IP across southern Iraq have done an outstanding job,” he said.

Lastly, Nash praised the Iraqi Army for working well with the Iraqi Air Force during interagency operations and their “unit readiness, tactical proficiency and logistical improvements.”

Brooks then addressed the crowd.

“It’s an honor for the 1st Infantry Di-

vision to return to Iraq to serve again,” Brooks said.

Almost straight out of the gate, the BRO will facilitate the national elections and the upcoming seating of the Council of Representatives, which Brooks said are “positive indications of a sovereign country on the path to democratic success.”

“Our motto is, ‘No mission too difficult, no sacrifice too great. Duty First,’” he said.

For more from USD-S PAO visit
www.facebook.com/1stInfantryDivision



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Danger Six sends

To the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and Civilians of United States Division-South:

As the 1st Infantry Division assumes operational control of U.S. forces in the nine southeastern provinces of Iraq, our emphasis is on support for our host nation and partnering with Iraqis at all levels. Our focused lines of effort include: 1. Support to Iraqi Security Forces for Security; 2. Support to PRTs for Civil Capacity; 3. Transition; and 4. Communication.

Our first order of business is supporting the Iraqi national election process. Operations need to be visible yet transparent to the Iraqi people as we work with them to ensure a safe, secure and fair seating of the new government. Their success is our success.

We will work tirelessly to accomplish the U.S. military's transition from Iraq with success and honor. I want to emphasize the vital importance of remaining vigilant during the time of transition. Stay focused on the mission and the environment around you. There are still many enemies who seek Iraq's failure, and you stand daily with the Iraqi people to ensure the failure of these enemies.

Military discipline is non-negotiable. Be disciplined in your actions to reduce equipment on-hand and facilities. Be disciplined in the daily duties of combat and stability operations. Be disciplined in the personal decisions you make. A healthy paranoia combats complacency.

The leadership team of the 1st Infantry Division – “The Fighting First,” “The Big Red 1” – is honored to serve with you right here, right now. We’ll see you in the coming days.

NO MISSION TOO DIFFICULT. NO SACRIFICE TOO GREAT. DUTY FIRST!



Vincent K. Brooks
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding



Major General
Vincent K. Brooks



Command Sergeant Major
Command Sergeant Major
Jim Champagne

DANGER FORWARD

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Contributing Units



17th FIB



4th BCT, 1st Armd. Div.



12th CAB



3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div.



367th MPAD



Knowing watt not to do

Protecting your electronic devices from overloading

By Marc Greene

USD-S Safety & Occupational Health

Welcome to Iraq!

One of the biggest changes we will face here is the difference in voltage. Electrical voltage here is 240v, compared to the 110v we are used to back home.

Most fires here have been due to overloading of electrical wiring. The following are some rules for the safe use of electricity.

Outlet devices will have an ampere rating not less than the load to be served. That means, don't plug appliances into an outlet with a lower amperage rating than the appliance.

Generally, the maximum cord and plug connection to a 15 ampere branch circuit is limited to 80 percent of the rating of the circuit breaker, or 12 amperes. Most power strips are rated for 15 amperes. This equates to approximately 1500 watts of power connected to the device.

Equipment with heating elements such as coffee pots and hot plates can easily exceed this limit. Caution must be used if they are to be connected to power strips.

Each device should have an amperage rating on it. If the combined amperage of the devices you plug into a power strip exceeds the strip's amperage rating, you need to disconnect some items.

A little basic math can save your life -- and I used to tell my teachers I would never use math again once I was out of school.

When you receive a new power cord, make sure you uncoil the wire. If left coiled, heat can build up and the cord can fail.

Power strips should have a plastic external case rather than a metal one.

Frayed cords are not permitted. If you have a power cord that has broken wires or damaged insulation, dispose of it properly. A new power cord is much less expensive and easier to replace than you are. Splicing or taping cords is not allowed.

Do not place power cords under carpets, doors, or any other location that can subject them to abrasion damage.

Do not plug a surge protector or power strip into an existing surge protector or power strip. This practice is called "daisy chaining" or "piggy backing" and can create an overload hazard.

Plugging several surge protectors or power strips into a single duplex outlet is also daisy chaining.

When placing your power cords, be mindful of tripping hazards. Do not place them across doorways or walkways.

If using a European-style two-prong plug or adapter, use caution. The brass pieces on either side are the grounding points.

If you touch them or one of the prongs of the plug while plugging or unplugging your device and are touching anything metal, you will become the grounding point. You do the math.

When you are leaving your room or otherwise not using devices, unplug them. It may take an extra minute or two, but the time will be well-spent and your personal belongings will not be ashes when you go back to your sleeping area.

Remember duty first and safety always.

This, and many other helpful links can be found on the 1st Infantry Division SharePoint under the Shared Documents link.

This week in Army history

This week in Big Red One history

Feb. 2-8, 1968: Following the Jan. 31 launch of the Tet Offensive by Viet Cong and North Vietnamese regulars, the 1st Infantry Division was in the thick of the fight. Big Red One Soldiers helped repel attacks on the division headquarters at Lai Khe, the Tan Son Nhut Air Base, and strategic points near Saigon. More than 1,000 enemy combatants were killed in the 1st Inf. Div. area of operations in less than two weeks.

This week in OIF history

Feb. 3, 2003: Secretary of State Colin Powell appeared before the United Nations, presenting evidence that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction.

This week in 4th Armored Division history

Feb. 1945: After remaining in the Bastogne area for about six weeks in anticipation of another German offensive, in February and March 1945, the 4th followed the 90th Infantry Division through the Siegfried Line to the Kyll River in Germany and battled its way to the Rhine through Simmern, Bad Kreuznach and Worms.

Passing the torch of USD-S

Key Basrah civilian and military leaders thank 34th Inf. Div., welcome 1st Inf. Div.

By Staff Sgt. Christopher Carney
367th MPAD, USD-S PAO

COB BASRA – A group of leading Iraqi religious, civilian and military leaders met with the incoming and outgoing commanders of United States Division — South on Contingency Operating Base Basra, Jan. 28th.

The event allowed the Basrah Province leaders a chance to thank Maj. Gen. Rick Nash, 34th Infantry Division commander, for the work done and the relationships built during the past 10 months, and to meet Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, 1st Inf. Div. commander and incoming USD-S commander.

The event was informal and provided the participants time for



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, 1st Inf. Div. commander, and Maj. Gen. Rick Nash, 34th Inf. Div. commander, talk with Brig. Gen. Sami Saeed, Iraqi Air Force 70th Sqdn. commander, at COB Basra, Jan. 28.

talking, enjoying chai tea, and partaking in a traditional meal together. The meeting was intended to ensure that the various close and personal relationships built with local leaders and the community during the 34th Inf. Div.'s tour continue under the 1st Inf. Div.'s watch.

"We in the 1st Infantry Division are honored to be able to come to Basrah and become partners with each of the guests and organizations represented today," said Brooks.

"This division is committed to the continuing partnership that was established by the 34th Division," he added. "We all have great respect for what the Red Bulls have done during their time here, and we wish them all the best as they go into the future."

Nash welcomed Brooks and guaranteed the guests that they are in great hands with 1st Inf. Div. and that things would only improve under their guidance.

"The last 10 months have brought positive progress to southern Iraq," Nash said. "The advances in civil capacity and economic improvement are solid, coupled with the tremendous work of the Iraqi Security Forces."

"I am confident that the future of Iraq is bright," Nash added. "I will return in the future to see a land of peace and prosperity."

Iraqi military representatives included Maj. Gen. Muhammad Jawad Hawaydi, Basra Operations Center commander, Maj. Gen. Abdul Aziz Noor Swady al Dalmy, 14th Iraqi Army Div. commander, and Brig. Gen. Sami Saeed, Iraqi Air Force 70th Squadron commander.

Two notable members of the local religious community, Imam Sayid Abdul al-Moosawi, cleric for the al-Moosawi mosque in Basrah, and acting-Bishop of Basrah, Imad Aziz al-Banna were

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Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, 1st Inf. Div. commander, talks with Maj. Gen. Muhammad Jawad Hawaydi, BaOC commander during an informal event to welcome Brooks and 1st Inf. Div. to COB Basra, Jan. 28.

Providing for the future... Helping schoolchildren reminds support Soldier of own childhood

Story by Pfc. Lisa A. Cope
13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

COB ADDER – Staff Sgt. Imelda P. Quiroz said delivering school supplies to Ibn Rushed School, a rural school outside Nasariyah, Iraq, reminded her of the visits humanitarians made to her school when she was a child in Ciudad Acuna, Mexico.

Quiroz, the supply accounting non-commissioned officer with the 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) moved to Arlington, Texas, and joined the Army, but she said the Jan. 13 trip to the Iraqi school brought back 20-year-old memories.

She said she always looks forward to the visits and believes they are important to public relations in Iraq.

Soldiers with the 36th Sust. Bde., out of Temple, Texas, delivered the supplies to the teachers and students at Ibn Rushed School to further develop the Iraqi civil capacity and help educate the next generation of Iraq's leaders.

"I think things like this make a difference in other countries, because I came from another country and I remember always going to a Bible school in the summer," said Quiroz. "I didn't speak English, so I remember how a whole bunch of people used to come, and I looked forward to them coming every summer. That always stayed in my head."

The trip to Ibn Rushed School was the first mission for Lt. Col. Peter M. Bistransin as the civil military officer with the 36th Sust. Bde.

Bistransin, an Austin, Texas, native, said the students reacted well to the visit.

"First, we went in and [the teachers] had the kids stand up when I walked in, and they had them sit down," he said. "[The kids] are very well disciplined. As soon as the teacher let them talk and stuff, they were very friendly and ... they were really appreciative of us coming by."

He said he believes it is important to have the Soldiers spend time with Iraqi students.

"I did not want to rush in, drop off the supplies and rush out," said Bistransin.

Bistransin said chalk was the most useful donation to the school because most of the instruction is done on the blackboard to help the children who do not have books.

"I did not see all the kids having a book," said Bistransin. "I saw that the teacher had a book, and they used [the blackboard a lot]. With a lack of books, chalk would probably be a very key element in getting the subject matter to the students."

Quiroz said she knows the kids will remember this visits from the 36th Sust. Bde. just as she remembers the Bible school from her childhood.

"For me, it has been over 20 years ago and I still remember, so I think they will remember this," said Quiroz.

Quiroz said her trip taught her why the volunteers in Mexico were so willing to help her when she was a child.

"Now I understand why they kept doing it," said Quiroz. "It actually does feel really good to go out there. So, whenever they do stuff like that I always try to volunteer, because I know it made a difference in my life."



Photo by Pfc. Lisa A. Cope

Staff Sgt. Mario A. Bonilla, a training non-commissioned officer with the 36th Sustainment Brigade, out of Temple, Texas, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) delivers school supplies to a student Jan. 13, at Ibn Rushed School, near Nasariyah, Iraq. Soldiers with the 36th Sust. Bde. visited to distribute school supplies to the students and teachers to further the Iraqi civil capacity and aid the next generation of Iraqi leaders.

For more from 13th ESC visit
www.dvidshub.net/units

Meeting reaffirms tribal support

Story by Pfc. Lisa A. Cope

13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

COB ADDER – The 36th Sustainment Brigade and Shaykh Uday Aber Fahed Al Shrschap, of the Bdure Tribe, hosted a key leader engagement, Jan. 20, at Al Shrschap's home to strengthen the cooperation of U.S. forces and the local population.

Col. Sean A. Ryan, commander of the 36th Sust. Bde., out of Temple, Texas, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) had lunch with the shaykhs and discussed upcoming projects.

Ryan said the meeting was important because he had only been able to meet with the area leaders once since the unit's arrival in country.

"We have not been able to get out there and do a key leader engagement with [al Shrschap] for some time," said Ryan, a Cedar Park, Texas, native. "I have not been able to go out there just to let them know that we appreciate what he has done to keep it safe for us and that he continues to support U. S. troops in the area."

Ryan said Al Shrschap has fulfilled some logistical contracts in the past and is working on a couple of projects for U.S. forces.

"As the leader of the Bdure Tribe, Shaykh Uday understands the relationships between the Iraqi people and U.S.



Photo by Pfc. Lisa A. Cope
Col. Sean A. Ryan, commander of the 36th Sust. Bde., and Cedar Park, Texas, native, and Shaykh Uday Aber Fahed Al Shrschap, of the Bdure Tribe, discuss the relationship between the U.S. forces and the local population, Jan. 20, at Al Shrschap's home near COB Adder, Iraq.

Forces is imperative for continued partnership as the military begins to downsize," said Ryan.

"He is just [letting] us know that he has manpower, he has logistics and he has trucks," Ryan said. "So, if there is something he can do for us, he is available to do it."

Al Shrschap said, through an interpreter, the meeting was important and that he and Ryan should work together "to strengthen the relationship between the American and Iraqi parts and talk about the [upcom-

ing] work between the two sides."

Al Shrschap said he and his tribe want to continue to be a part of American security and will continue to support the troops with their mission.

Ryan said these types of meetings are important in keeping a good rapport in the area surrounding Camp Adder.

"It gives us a chance to talk through any issues that the local populace may [have]," he said.

For more from 13th ESC visit www.dvidshub.net/units

Pumps link Adder Soldiers with locals

By Pfc. Lisa A. Cope

13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

COB ADDER, Iraq – Soldiers with the 546th Maintenance Company and the 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) met with local leaders Jan. 18, and visited the four pump stations along the Euphrates River that provide water to Contingency Operating Base Adder and Camp Cedar II, Iraq.

First Lt. Nicholas R. Blair, the officer in charge of the Canal Pump Team with the 546th Maint. Co. out of Fort Polk, La., said his team delivers fuel to all four pumps about three times a week.

Blair, a Norton, Mass., native, said local shaykhs own the pump sites and local Iraqis are in charge of the general upkeep and maintenance of the pumps. So, when the team goes out to the sites, they always interact with the local population, he said.



Photo by Pfc. Lisa A. Cope
Col. Sean A. Ryan, commander, 36th Sust. Bde., takes a tour of a water pump on the Euphrates that supplies COB Adder, Jan. 18, "We are starting to interact more with the local population," Ryan said.

Blair said his Soldiers have a good relationship with the local children in particular, as the children generally run to greet the Soldiers, who bring them candy and other items that have been

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Experienced healthcare Soldiers benefit Basrah nursing college

By Staff Sgt. Christopher Carney
367th MPAD, USD-S PAO

COB BASRA – The medical care of southern Iraq will be getting a big boost in a few years, thanks to the opening of the first 4-year Bachelor of Nursing college in Basrah.

The Basrah Provincial Reconstruction Team has been working with the college, whose first class of students started in June, to help ensure its success. The first class has 30 students: 16 women and 14 men.

PRTs work with local governments, businesses and civil authorities to help build a self-sufficient Iraq.

Maj. Diane GreenPope, Basrah PRT health advisor and Military Support Element team leader, from the 308th Civil Affairs Brigade, has been visiting the college with the aim of giving the medical staff more training to help bring them up to international standards.

“The goal is more training,” said the Syracuse, N.Y., native. “So what we’re doing is facilitating that by using medical personnel here at the PRT as well as Con-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Carney

Maj. Diane GreenPope, Basrah PRT health advisor and MSE team leader, from Syracuse, N.Y., talks with a professor from the Basrah College of Nursing in their practical lab, Jan. 13.

tingency Operating Base Basra, to go out and teach at the nursing school.”

“We’re using professionals — nurses, and doctors — using their expertise to teach and train the nursing students,” said GreenPope, who received her bachelor’s

in nursing in 1996.

Capt. Sue Mosier, 17th Fires Brigade surgeon, from Doylestown Ohio, is one of the professionals who has visited and taught at the college.

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Carney

Students at Basrah’s College of Nursing listen to a lecture on body mechanics and posture, Jan. 13. The newly opened college in Basrah is one of only 7 such schools in Iraq and now has ten instructors, all with extensive medical backgrounds. They have been published in foreign magazines and have authored textbooks in medicine and spent years in the medical field.

Friday Night Fights at Adder

By Sgt. Francis Horton
367th MPAD, USD-S PAO

COB ADDER – Music blares as gladiators walk down the aisles. Teeth grip a mouth guard and eyes turn steely as their protective equipment is checked before entering the ring.

The referee has them touch gloves and the calm demeanor is gone in an instant. The first punch flies and connects. Welcome to Friday Night Fights.

“We’re all warrior athletes inside,” said Staff Sgt. Aaron Martinez with the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, a native of Des Moines, Iowa. Martinez is an Army combatives trainer at Ft. Bliss, Texas and planned much of the Friday Night Fight event at Contingency Operating Base Adder.

All of the fighters have been training with Martinez or other instructors to prepare for the evening. Several classes are taught on post, from boxing and kickboxing to Army Combatives and Jiu-Jitsu.

“Fundamentals come first,” said Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Costa from Pensacola, Fla., a member of the 732nd Air Expeditionary Group. Movement and balance are taught before any punches are thrown.



Photo by Sgt. Francis Horton
Staff Sgt. Aaron Martinez, 4th BCT, 1st Armd. Div., checks the equipment of Sgt. James Barrett, 4th BCT, 1st Armd. Div., before he steps into the ring, Jan 8.



Photo by Sgt. Francis Horton
Air Force Staff Sgt. Dominic Buzzeli, 732nd Provost Marshal Office, throws a punch at his opponent, Sgt. James Barrett, 4th BCT, 1st Armd. Div., during Friday Night Fights on COB Adder, Jan 8. During the fights, COB Adder’s Memorial Hall was filled to capacity.

Costa trained in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu while stationed in Japan and helps Martinez train service members who come to the gym to learn to fight, he said. He has been learning and teaching here for about four months.



Photo by Sgt. Francis Horton
Sgt. Jonathan Blanton, 4th BCT, 1st Armd. Div., (bottom) fends off Spc. Sam Garcia, 3rd Bde, 141st Infantry Regiment, during Friday Night Fights on COB Adder, Jan 8.

The fighters prepare themselves in different ways, some trying to calm themselves, others attempting to psych themselves up.

Sgt. Jonathan Blanton, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th BCT 1st Armd. Div., a native of Summerfield, Texas, made his way to the smoking area outside of Memorial Hall and bummed a cigarette from a fellow Soldier. Even after quitting, he does what he can to calm his nerves.

“I try not to think about what I’m about to do,” he said.

Often times, he thinks of his family or what the next few days hold for him to calm himself, he said.

“I’ve practiced hard for the last two weeks,” Blanton said.

At times, the training consists of sparring against other fighters; those sessions are to reinforce technique.

Friday Night Fights isn’t a typical

See FIGHTS, page 12

Hockey Day 2010, Basrah:

Minnesotan Soldiers enjoy favorite northern winter sport half a world away

By Staff Sgt. Christopher Carney
367th MPAD, USD-S PAO

COB BASRA – Continuing the outpouring of support from Minnesota that the 34th Infantry Division “Red Bulls” have received during their year-long deployment to Iraq, the Rosemount Area Hockey Association found a way for the remaining Red Bulls at Contingency Operating Base Basra to share in “Hockey Day,” Jan. 23, with all of the hockey fans back home.

Hockey Day is a tradition in Minnesota between the Minnesota “Wild” and Fox Sports North that features hockey games broadcast from dusk till dawn. The day starts with high school games, then college, and finally the big event – this year between the Wild and Ohio’s Columbus Blue Jackets.

Rosemount, Minn. is the home of the 34th Inf. Div., and the hockey association donated jerseys, hockey sticks, pucks and goals so that Soldiers in Iraq could play a game of hockey.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Carney

Soldiers from the 34th Inf. Div.’s DSTB celebrate after a game of hockey courtesy of the Rosemount Hockey Association, at COB Basra, Jan. 23. The RHA donated hockey equipment so that the Minnesota National Guard troops could take part in Hockey Day, a Minnesota tradition.

The game was between the Basra Bulldogs and Controlled Detonation, two teams, of 15 players each, from the Division Special Troops Battalion who squared off in three 20-minute periods.

The highlights from the game were broadcast during the Wild’s game with the Blue Jackets.

“Hockey day is pretty important back in Minnesota, and we got a lot of fans out here. Although we can’t be there in person it’s good to help celebrate and enjoy the festivities while we’re here in Basra,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Douglas Wortham, DSTB command sergeant major, from Elko, Minn.

The chance to play hockey in the very non-Minnesota-like climate of Iraq was appreciated even if skates and ice could not be flown over.

“This is something we don’t see anything of over here. I have yet to see a game on AFN. I go to Wild games regularly,” said Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence Nelson, a DSTB platoon sergeant from Burnsville, Minn. “It’s the middle of winter; this is what we should be doing.”

The 34th is preparing to transfer authority over United States Division—South, to the 1st Inf. Div., and in a few days will be returning home.

They are thankful for all of the support

See HOCKEY, page 13



Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Carney

Maj. Rick Caron, 34th Inf. Div., USD-S mayors cell, from Faribault, Minn., shoots for a goal during Hockey Day Jan. 23, at COB Basra. The Rosemount Hockey Association donated hockey equipment so that the 34th Inf. Div. Soldiers could share in the fun with fans back home.

Soldiers watch from above

By Sgt. Ben Hutto
3rd HBCT Public Affairs Office

FOB KALSU – Being a Soldier in the United States Army is more than a full-time job, and no one understands that more than the unmanned aerial vehicle cell at Forward Operating Base Kalsu.

The Soldiers assigned to the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division's UAV cell monitor the 3rd HBCT's area of operation from above 24 hours a day.

"We are always on the lookout for the bad guys," said Staff Sgt. Ray Lemlin, a platoon sergeant in "A" Company, Brigade Special Troops Battalion. "The goal is always to spot them before they can hurt us."

Since their arrival to FOB Kalsu, Lemlin's section has been vigilant in making sure that all of their aircrafts are ready to go, said Lemlin. A UAV that can't fly doesn't do anyone any good.

"Our platoon is very meticulous when it comes to maintenance," said Lemlin, a



Photo by Sgt. Ben Hutto

Pfc. Anthony McCormack, a controller assigned to "A" Co., BSTB, 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div., wheels a UAV out to a launcher at FOB Kalsu, Jan. 25. The vehicle, which weighs over 300 pounds, requires three Soldiers to load it on to the launcher.

native of Miami. "We rarely have an aircraft down because of maintenance issues. We have never been at less than 75-percent strength."

"To be honest," he added, "we have never been at less than 100 percent for more than a couple of hours."

The section's commitment to excellence is shaped by their desire to keep their fellow Soldiers safe.

"It's our job to keep our guys out of harm's way," said Sgt. Richard Knuth, a maintainer in "A" Co. from Merkel, Texas. "It's a good feeling, but it requires us to have a pretty high set of standards. We can have a lot of down time between flights so we've got to maintain our focus and not let duties become routine."

According to Lemlin, his Soldiers must always be ready to launch a UAV, even when indirect fire is raining down on the FOB.

"Depending on where we have UAV operating, we may have to get another camera up when the bad guys try to throw indirect fire at us," he said. "That means our guys have to have the UAV up in 15 minutes or less."

Which, according to Merkel, is much harder than it sounds.

"When indirect starts coming in, it's our job to grab a head-set, run the UAV out to the launcher, double check the vehicle, go through our pre-flight checks and launch," he explained. "It takes three people to load the vehicle. It's 375 pounds; I wouldn't say it's heavy, but it takes a bit of work to get it ready to go."

They do all of this as everyone else on the FOB is running for the cover of concrete shelters.

"It's what we signed up for," said Merkel. "If we aren't out there in the open for those few minutes, we may miss a chance to catch the bad guys who are doing it."

Pfc. Anthony McCormack, a controller assigned to "A" Co. from San Diego, knows first-hand how dangerous that indirect fire can be.

"I was behind a concrete wall when a rocket landed about five feet from me," he said. "It was scary, but it did definitely help create a better sense of urgency in me. I understand why what I do is impor-

See UAV, page 12



Photo by Sgt. Ben Hutto

Sgt. Richard Knuth (left) and Sgt. Winston Chin (right), both assigned to "A" Co., BSTB, 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div., adjust a UAV on its a launcher, Jan. 25, at FOB Kalsu.

Soldier's life defined by service

By Sgt. Ben Hutto
3rd HBCT PAO

FOB KALSU – Spc. Jon Calhoun, a Soldier in “C” Company, 203rd Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, isn’t your typical specialist in the United States Army.

As 3rd HBCT’s lone x-ray technician, Calhoun, a native of Canton, Ohio, is responsible for maintaining and operating the brigade’s X-Ray machine at Forward Operating Base Kalsu. He is also responsible for taking the most accurate images he can to help ensure that the Soldiers under his care get the best possible diagnosis.

“I love doing my job,” he said. “I enjoy the technical aspects of it, the challenge of doing it well and meeting and helping people.”

“Helping people is very fulfilling,” he said. “It is really what we should all do.”

The word “service” sums up the 44 years Calhoun has lived so far.

After he graduated from Bob Jones University in Greenville, S.C., with a master of divinity degree, he decided to join the Army as a combat medic.



Photo by Sgt. Ben Hutto

Spc. Jon Calhoun, an X-ray technician, “C” Co., 203rd BSB, 3rd HBCT, takes an X-ray of a Soldier’s arm at FOB Kalsu, Jan. 29.

“I initially joined the Army for three reasons,” he said. “I wanted to learn medicine, I wanted to pay off my school bills and I wanted to serve my country. The Army allowed me to do all three of those things.”

As a combat medic serving in the 1st Bn., 14th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Armored Div., at Fort Hood, Texas, Calhoun learned skills that allowed him to help people.

“I initially wanted to work in a hospital, so when I was placed with a line unit I was disappointed,” he said. “It turned out to be the best thing that could happen to me. It gave me the opportunity to practice field medicine.”

Calhoun served as a field medic for four years. Then he decided to get out and pursue another calling.

For six years, Calhoun and his wife, Shelley, lived in a remote village in the Chimbu Province of New Guinea.

Serving as missionaries, the couple started a medical clinic and church in the small village of Kiari.

Living in a remote mountain village had its challenges. The running water in the village was “the stream running by our house” he explained with a grin.

The roads he had to take to get to the village could better be described as paths. It was not uncommon for the couple to use very thin, narrow rope-bridges to cross streams and ravines. Those routes were also filled with bandits.

“I’ve been held up with home-made shotguns, bows and arrows, and spears,” he said.

Despite the struggles, he and his wife remember the time in New Guinea fondly.

“We had a great time there,” he said. “It was very rewarding for me and my wife. When you are doing what the Lord wants you to do, it can bring you huge amounts of joy. You may not always be happy -- happiness is a very temporary feeling sometimes -- but you are always joyful.”

As the village’s doctor, Calhoun performed minor surgeries, helped treat malaria, typhoid and tuberculosis, and looked after injuries.

“The Army helped prepare me for that



Courtesy Photo

Spc. Jon Calhoun, now an X-ray technician assigned to “C” Co., 203rd BSB, hikes through the forests of Kiari, New Guinea, in the summer of 2005. Calhoun, a Christian missionary for six years before re-joining the Army, built a church and medical clinic.

time,” he said. “Physically, I was ready, I had practiced field medicine, and mentally I was used to working crazy hours.”

The health clinic also provided him an avenue to share his faith.

“I started a church with eight people,” he said. “When I left there, it had grown to close to a hundred people.”

After six years of service to the people of Kiari and his faith, the Calhouns returned to America.

As the couple thought about what they should do next, the idea of serving in the Army again became more appealing to both of them.

“The benefits of the Army made it too good of an opportunity not to take advantage of,” he said. “Free schooling, the opportunity to practice medicine and the chance to become a physician’s assistant were all factors in why I chose to come back. It’s hard to get a better deal than what they can provide.”

As Calhoun serves his faith, his country and his fellow Soldiers, he is excited about what he is doing and the direction his life is heading.

“I try to do the best I can in everything I do, mainly for God’s glory,” he said. “I am blessed in the fact that I love my job. Serving people can really be a reward in itself.”

For more from 3rd HBCT visit
www.facebook.com/3hbct3id



Photo by Sgt. Ben Hutto

Sgt. Richard Knuth, "A" Co., BSTB, 3rd HBCT, does a pre-flight check on one of his UAVs at FOB Kalsu, Jan. 25. Knuth and his fellow maintainers ensure the UAVs are ready to launch at a moment's notice.

UAV, from page 10

tant, being on the receiving of something like that."

McCormack admits that his first deployment isn't exactly what he thought it would be, but he said that his motivation is still to keep his fellow Soldiers out of harm's way.

"As an enlisted Soldier, this is as close as you can get to being a pilot," he said. "It's a fun job, but it feels good to know that I'm helping keep Soldiers safe by checking routes, by looking for signs for buried explosives and finding enemies that are shooting rockets at us."

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PUMPS, from page 6

donated to the unit for distribution.

The closing of Cedar II will cut his teams' mission in half as only two of the pumps will be needed to keep COB Adder running, Blair said.

"[The closing of Cedar II] will affect it drastically; 50 percent of what we do outside will fundamentally be cut," said Blair.

Col. Sean A. Ryan, commander of the 36th Sust. Bde., out of Temple, Texas, and a Cedar Park, Texas, native, visited the pump houses and had lunch with two of the local shaykhs, Jan 18.

Ryan said the shaykhs help ensure the security of his troops while they are on missions in the area.

"They help us," said Ryan. "If there is ... anything going on, on their land, they let me know about it and help to keep our Soldiers safe here."

The pump houses are a vital link between the local population and U.S. forces in the area, Ryan said.

"We are starting to interact more with the local population," he said. "We see a lot more acceptance with the shaykhs, as well as the local populace that work there."

"There is not conflict, or friction points, with the pump houses because it is a win-win situation," Ryan said. "It is how we get our water and our lifeline here on Adder, and it provides some business to the shaykhs, and ultimately spreads throughout their communities."

For more from 13th ESC visit
www.dvidshub.net/units

FIGHTS, from page 8

Mixed Martial Arts competition. The rules are set by the Army Combatives Program and there are strikes which are illegal, Martinez said. This is to lower the possibility of serious injury to the contestants.

"We all have to go to work tomorrow," he joked with the fighters.

During the fights, COB Adder's Memorial Hall was filled to capacity, as over a thousand service members and civilians packed in to cheer on their favorites. The ring in the center of the hall dominated the scene, with medics and "ring girls" standing by.

Fighters used a mixture of kicks, punches and take-downs to gain the upper hand against each other.

"I didn't want any lopsided fights," Martinez said.

The combatant matches were chosen for their weight and skill levels. The more experienced fighters found themselves up against people who would give them a fair match.

Everyone fights for their own reasons, whether to prove their abilities to themselves or to give themselves something to



Photo by Sgt. Francis Horton

Staff Sgt. Aaron Martinez, 4th BCT, 1st Armd. Div., (right) has Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Costa, 732nd Air Expeditionary Group, demonstrate a legal punch on Sgt. Francis Trunck, 4th BCT, 1st Armd. Div., at COB Adder prior to the Friday Night Fights, Jan 8.

work toward.

"This keeps me out of trouble," said Costa.

He decided it would be better to fight in competition rather than "in the streets."

"I live to fight, and fight to live," said Blanton.

That has been his motto since joining the Army.

Anyone is welcome to train, even if it isn't to compete, at the Sprung gym on COB Adder, Monday through Saturday

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Carney
Capt. Sue Mosier, 17th FIB surgeon, from Doylestown, Ohio, demonstrates the proper way to move a patient with Maj. Diane Green-Pope, Basrah PRT health advisor and MSE team leader, from Syracuse, N.Y.

NURSE, from page 7

Mosier has just completed her residency in pediatrics and is happy to share her education with the nursing students.

"I think it's a great program," Mosier said. "Education is the best thing that we have to offer the students and it's the most important thing to further their development and further their knowledge."

"This is going to be the future of nursing in Iraq and it's very important to provide them the tools necessary to make them successful," she said.

In addition to providing guest lecturers, the PRT has brought supplies to use in practical exercises, including bandages, gauze, airway equipment and linen.

As one of only 7 nursing colleges in Iraq offering a 4-year degree, the new Basrah school is an important addition to the area's educational and medical future.

It now has ten instructors, all with extensive medical backgrounds. They have

been published in foreign magazines and have authored textbooks in medicine and spent years in the medical field.

One goal of the instructors is to standardize instruction material and lab equipment to represent a typical hospital, although most Iraqi hospitals are not standardized or typical as of yet either.

They want the students to see what they will have in a hospital as much as is possible in Iraq.

The college has an extensive library that one could expect to see at any school in the U.S., and they are working on getting internet connectivity to the school so that students can connect to the medical community around the world.

"It's a good group of students they have," said GreenPope. "This is a beginning program and I am glad that we are here at the start of it all to help them grow."

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HOCKEY, from page 9

they received while deployed in Iraq.

"We're having a great time out here today. A lot of these guys played high school or intramural hockey and looking out here you can see a lot of smiling faces," said Lt. Col. Steve Hanson, commander, 34th DSTB from Little Falls, Minn. "The way Minnesota supports us is unbelievable."

The Basra Bulldogs beat Controlled Detonation 7 to 5, but regardless of who won, the Minnesota Soldiers enjoyed playing hockey in Iraq and the support from back home.

"I'm glad we can have a little fun and enjoy the stuff they sent over for us," Wortham said. "We appreciate all of the support and give a big thanks to Rosemount and the hockey association."

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Carney
Pvt. Michael Aylward, Woodbury, Minn., stands guard as goalie while members of the 34th Inf. Div.'s Special Troops Battalion play hockey at COB Basra, Jan. 23. Hockey equipment was donated by the Rosemount Hockey Association so that the 34th Inf. Div. Soldiers on COB Basra could share in the fun with fans back home in Minnesota.



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza
Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, 1st Inf. Div. commander, drinks chai tea with Imam Sayid Abdul al-Moosawi, cleric for the al-Moosawi mosque in Basrah and local magnate, at COB Basra, Jan. 28.

TORCH, from page 4

also in attendance

A representative of Basrah Governor Sheltag Aboud al-Mayah, and Mike Sunshine of the Basrah Provincial Reconstruction Team were also present.

Nash exchanged gifts with the attendees, giving out replica "Red Bulls" made of brass.

After giving a gift to Nash, Hawaydi wished success for Brooks and their common goal of serving the people of Basrah and southern Iraq.

He then told Nash and the Red Bull Soldiers through an interpreter, "Stand tall and be proud for what you provided for the people of Basrah. We will always remember you as a brother, as a friend and as a partner."

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New water park in Cedar Park, Texas

\$360 million project expected to create more than 1,000 jobs.

By Miguel Licano
AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

CEDAR PARK, Texas -- Cedar Park could soon be home to a water park resort, the latest attraction in the growing bedroom community that officials say will draw people from across central Texas.

City leaders are expected to announce plans tonight for a new Schlitterbahn Wa-

terpark, a brand well known to Texans for its original New Braunfels location.

The park would be built on about 95 acres on RM 1431, about halfway between U.S. 183 and Interstate 35, according to a Cedar Park Economic Development Corp. meeting agenda. The project is expected to cost about \$360 million to fully develop, city documents said.

The economic impact is expected to be \$2.5 billion over 30 years and more than 1,000 jobs, according to an independent study cited in city documents.

"It is a resort destination that we're announcing not just a water park," Schlitterbahn spokesman Jeffrey Siebert said.

The park would be the company's fifth and its second largest in acreage.

Siebert said the new water park might include a hotel or other features, but he did not provide details.

Cedar Park is the hometown of Col. Sean A. Ryan, who appears in the lead story on p. 6

Medical evacuations of Haitians set to resume

CNN

MIAMI, Fla. -- Flights transporting critically injured Haitians to the United States are set to resume Monday morning, according to a spokeswoman for a University of Miami team of volunteers in Port-au-Prince.

The flights are scheduled to resume at 11 a.m. Monday, said Nery Ynclan, a spokeswoman for the university's R. Barth Green, who is leading the team.

The flights were temporarily suspended because of logistical issues including space to care for the injured, White House spokesman Tommy Vietor said Saturday.

"Having received assurances that additional capacity exists both here and among our international partners, we determined that we can resume these critical flights," he said in a statement Sunday. The statement, released Sunday afternoon, said flights would resume "in the next 12 hours."

The evacuated patients are those whose medical needs could not be met by doctors working in Haiti. Nearly 23,000 people have been seen by U.S. personnel since the January 12 earthquake, Vietor said.

Airlifts stopped after there were "concerns about the strain on domestic health

capacity," Vietor said. But officials have increased the ability to care for patients through a network of nonprofits and U.S. hospitals, he said.

The flights stopped Wednesday when some states refused to allow entry to Haitians needing care, according to Navy Capt. Kevin Aandahl, a spokesman for the U.S. Transportation Command. He would not say which states objected.

In a letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius obtained by CNN, Florida Gov. Charlie Crist asked that the federal government activate the National Disaster Medical System to provide reimbursement to Florida and other states for taking in the patients, who have no insurance.

Florida's health facilities were already strained by winter tourism and seasonal residence migration, Crist said in the letter. But Florida officials said Saturday that the state was committed to assisting Haitian quake victims and had not asked the airlifts be halted.

Florida will play a role in caregiving once flights resume. The state has identified medical facilities that could take in victims, Vietor said in Sunday's statement.

Miami is the hometown of Staff Sgt. Ray Lemlin, who appears in the lead story on p. 10



U.S. Air Force medics carry a Haitian patient onto an aircraft to be flown to Miami, last week
DoD Photo

AROUND THE COB

Danger Forward

Feb. 2, Issue 1

Dining Hours

DFAC 2

0530 - 0830
1130 - 1400
1700 - 2000

DFAC 3

0530 - 0830
1130 - 1400
1700 - 2000
0000 - 0130

Hair Cuts

Barber Shop

0900 - 2000

Beauty Shop

0900 - 2000

USO

Every day

Closes 0600
Re-opens 1000

Religious Services

Protestant

(COB Basra Chapel)
Contemporary Worship
1000

General Protestant

1130
Gospel Worship
1400
Chapel Next Protestant
1830

Roman Catholic

(COB Basra Chapel)
Sunday Mass
0830
Saturday Vigil Mass
2000

Jewish

(COB Basra Chapel)
Saturday
1800

LDS

(COB Basra Chapel)

Sunday

1700 - 1800

Chaplain Programs

Bible Studies

- Book of Colossians
(HHB 17th FiB Conf Rm)

Wednesday

2000
- Regular
(Panther Den / MWR)

Wednesday

1930

Women's Fellowship

(Holy Joe's Coffeehouse)

Sunday

1030

Every Man's Battle

(HHB 17th FiB Conf Rm)

Thursday

1800 - 1900

Holy Joe's Coffee

(Holy Joe's Coffeehouse)

Monday - Saturday

0600 - 0900

Saturday night

1900 - 2200

The Truth Project

(Gunslinger Conf Rm)

Tuesday

1900 - 2030

AA

(COB Basra Chapel)

Thursday

2000

Sudoku

2			1	6				9
							8	
6	4			9	3			2
			3		1	7		5
	1		4					6
3		9	5	7		1		
		5			2	9	4	
8				5		3		
		6	8	3	4			

A look around USD-S



Photo by Staff Sgt. Amanda Kobernick, 354th MP Co., 49th MP Bde. Pfc. Brian McKenney, 1st Platoon, 354th Military Police Company, 49th MP Brigade, bounces a soccer ball off his helmet while playing with a local boy outside his assigned Iraqi police station, Jan. 28. In the background, Sgt. Heath Theriac, 1st Plt., visits with another local boy.

Have a photo from around USD-S? Email it, along with the photographer's name, rank and unit, the date and place it was taken, and a short description, to benjamin.kibbey@iraq.centcom.mil and it could be featured here.